

Principal's News...

Focal Point? Tableau? Parking Lot? Do you ever talk to your child about their school day and feel like they are speaking another language? At Barrett, we use a lot of "Barrett Vocabulary" across our classrooms, which helps us as a building ensure that we have a shared set of expectations, shared instructional approaches, and our students are given consistency throughout their day.

Two of the most common phrases we use are 'strong choice' and 'weak choice.' We prefer these terms over simply saying "good" or "bad" behavior, because it focuses on the student's ability to choose their behavior. The words "strong" and "weak" help us challenge our students to make decisions that make our school stronger, and show they are putting forth an effort to grow. The imperative to "Please make a strong choice," creates a much different reaction from a student than to simply, "Be good."

At Charles Barrett, much of our learning is done with partners and in small groups. Students often will apply skills in partners before being released to practice a new concept independently. When we are having cooperative learning and group discussions we need to do our best to remain on topic. If we begin to talk about a non-related topic, we put it in the "parking lot" so we can discuss it later at a more appropriate time.

As a [CETA](#) (Change Education Through the Arts) School, much of our vocabulary is rooted in the work that our students do with arts integration. When we want a particular group, student or object to be the focus of our attention, we make it our "focal point." We sometimes make a "tableau" to show our teachers and classmates our responses to a question. A tableau is a frozen picture with our bodies that we make in small groups and plan together. We each know our part and can explain everyone's role.

On Thursday, October 26th at 6:30pm, we will be hosting CETA Night. This is your opportunity to see many of these vocabulary words in action! Please plan on attending to get a hands-on experience with arts integration, and to better understand the words your child is using at the dinner table each night.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can do anything to better support your child.

It's hard to believe our kids have been back in school for nearly a month! If you haven't done so already, please:

- **Join.** Membership is only \$6/individual each year. Join [online](#) or fill out a paper form and return it to school.
- **Connect.** Read the *Buzz* newsletter and visit our [website](#) for updates and the latest PTA news. You can also subscribe and get notifications whenever we add new information.
- **Engage.** Volunteer and lend your support however and whenever you can. Need help finding an opportunity? We can help you find the perfect thing -- big or small.

Reminder: Our meeting is scheduled for **October 2 at 7:00 pm**. You don't want to miss Mr. Kennard's "State of the School" update. We will also discuss this year's budget and other important updates. I hope to see you there!

Upcoming community events:

- October 6--*Family SPLASH Night* at Chinquapin Recreation Center for \$4 per person.
- October 21--[MCM Fun Run Registration](#) deadline is September 30. Yes, that's TOMORROW! You still have time to [register online](#). Get details on our [website](#).

Best,

Ronké Hughes

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Be sure to review the PBIS pamphlet and Behavior Matrix that came home in your child's backpack or you received at Back to School Night. These papers contain important information about how PBIS works at Charles Barrett.

Have your child explain the school expectation and what they should look like in various settings (classroom, playground, cafeteria, hallway). Students and teachers have been working hard these first few weeks of school to set these expectations.

Throughout the school year there are many opportunities for recognition when students are meeting expectations (example of expectations: completing homework, active listening, following school rules, etc.). Some of these exciting rewards are: extra recess, neutraball games, fun lunch in the classroom, playing organized games vs. another class, computer time, etc. However, when students are not meeting these expectations, this extra time becomes an opportunity to reflect and plan for growth. Please ask your child what their classroom expectations are and discuss ways they can go about following these expectations.

Join us for our first restaurant night at Lena's Wood Fired Pizza on Thursday October 5th from 5:00–10:00pm.

Save the Date for our Annual Barnes & Noble Day on Saturday December 2nd. It will be held all day at the Potomac Yards location.

Garden News!

Harvest is almost here at Barrett! On October 4, Charles Barrett will be hosting a visit from Dorothy McAuliffe, Virginia's First Lady, and other visiting dignitaries! Our sweet potatoes have been growing all summer and are nearly ready to harvest. (Thank you to those who assisted with the watering all summer long!) Mrs. McAuliffe and other distinguished visitors will be learning about the use of our gardens at Barrett, Barrett's fall farm-to-table activity, as well as observing our kindergartners harvesting the sweet potatoes planted last spring. The PTA will be serving the sweet potatoes later this fall at our farm-to-table lunch for all students at Barrett.

As Chair of the Commonwealth Council on Bridging the Nutritional Divide, Mrs. McAuliffe will also be kicking off the "Crunch Heard Round the Commonwealth" at Barrett -- a lead-in to Virginia's apple season to raise awareness about childhood nutrition, including access to fresh fruits and veggies, and to support Virginia's farmers and healthy eating.

PTA Reflections is a nationally acclaimed student recognition program to encourage artistic creativity in the classroom and at home. Students of all grades and abilities may participate and explore the arts based on the 2017-2018 theme: **Within Reach**



Barrett on Twitter



Barrett on Facebook



Barrett Website



Charles Barrett PTA

Charles Barrett Upcoming Events

See the [Charles Barrett Calendar](#) for all school events >

News from Alexandria City Public Schools

Swim Skills Program Expands to Four Elementary Schools

Students from John Adams Elementary School, Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 School, James K. Polk Elementary School and Samuel Tucker Elementary School will participate in a swim safety program as part of their physical education curriculum this year.

Polk Receives Top National Award for Physical Education and Activity

James K. Polk Elementary School is one of only six schools in Virginia to receive the Let's Move Active Schools award, the nation's top physical education and physical activity distinction for K-12 schools.

ACPS Superintendent Survey Closes Today

Today is the last day to participate in the Superintendent Leadership Profile Survey. Five minutes is all it takes. Take the survey today!

What are Your Top Budget Priorities for the Next School Year?

Developing the ACPS budget is a year-round process involving the entire community. Learn how you can get involved and why it is important.

City Council Endorses Conversion of Vacant Office Space into Alexandria's Newest School

The City Council voted unanimously to approve the change in use of a vacant office building on the West End into a new school at the hearing on Saturday.

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